Forum: Environmental Council

Issue: The question of Whaling in International Waters

Chairs: President Derek Yu; Deputy President Ho Hyun Lim.

Whaling in International Waters

Definition

* Whaling is one of the oldest marinetime professions and also the most controbersial. In the days before electricity, most people hunted whales primarily for their whale oil for use in lamps, for meat and their valuable ivory bones.

Examples (The only existing Sanctuaries)

* Southern Ocean Whale Sanctuary
* Australian Whale Sanctuary
* Indian Ocean Whale Sanctuary

Background Information

In 1972, the UNEC (United Nations Environmental Conference) voted 52-0 in favor of the 10 year global morantorium on commerical whaling. Shorly after, in the creation of the IWC, this UN resolution was not adopted by a vote of 4-6-4 (4 yes, 6 no, and 4 abstensions). In 1973, the resolution was again voted becuase it lacked the 75% majority by a vote of 8-5-1. In 1982 , the IWC finally passed the whaling resolution for 1986 by a vote of 25-7-5.

Relevant Organizations, Resolutions, Groups and Countries

* Greenpeace International
  + This organization should be fairly well known to everyone in the EC. The goal of this NGO is “to ensure the ability of the Earth to nuture life in all its diversity”. Known for its direct actions, it has been described as the “most visible environmental organization in the world”
* IWC (international Whaling Commission)
  + The IWC is to keep under review and revise as necessary the measures to protect whaling throughout the world; measures such as the designation of specified areas as whale sanctuaries; set limits on the numbers and size of whales which may be taken etc.
* SSCS (Sea Shepherd Conservation Society)
  + Established in 1977, the SSCS’s mandate is to end the destruction of habitat and slaughter of wildlife in the world’s oceans. The SSCS uses innovative direct-actions tactics to investigate, document, and to “Take action when necessary to expose and confront illegal activities on the high seas”
  + Guided by the UN Charter World Charter for Nature, citing Section 21 under the heading of “Implementations as the Society’s authority to act on behalf of international conservation law
* UNWCN (United Nations World Charter for Nature)
  + A Resolution written by the United Nations in 1982 (UN GA RES 37/7 - World Charter for Nature)
* Japan
  + Japan was one of the first countries which were involved in Whaling. Whaling begun in Japan almost as early as the 12th century, and still continues today, although much of it is under the pretense of “ scientific research provision” and under the supervision of the Institute of Cetacean Research. It has also repetedly threatened to leave the IWC if the 84 member body does not shift its percieved mandate to “managing a sustainable kill of whales”
* US
  + In 2009, US President Barack Obama’s administration has admitted it would fully oppose whaling. “It's great to see the United States putting out a strong position and positioning itself to truly be a world leader in whale conservation, which really supports the broad sentiment across America” (Paul Kline, oceans campaigner for Greenpeace USA)
* Norway and Iceland
  + While the US is firmly against Whaling, Norway together with Iceland both defy the IWC memorandium (which allows the extent of “Lethal Research” on Whales). Norway whales only minke whales for the sole purpose of meat for human consumption. In 2004, the Norwegian Parliament passed a resolution to considerably the increase the nomber of Minkes hunted each year by 30%. Iceland whales for almost the same reason.

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